



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Baghdad, Iraq, July 22, 1937.

No. 830 - Diplomatic

Subject: Current Events for the period
July 4 to July 17, 1937.

OFFICE OF THE ADVISER ON
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
SEP 2 - 1937
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

1937 AUG 10 PM 1 53
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE

AUG 25 1937

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

AUG 27 1937

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith summaries or
copies of certain news items appearing in the local press
during the period July 4 to July 17, 1937, which may be of
minor interest to the Department. Brief comment has been
made when considered appropriate.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph C. Satterthwaite,
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

JCS:JGB
File No. 891
Enclosure:
Current Events

Copies to: American Embassy, London
American Legation, Teheran
American Consulate General, Beirut
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8906.00 GENERAL CONDITIONS/106

Enclosure to Despatch No. 830 -
Diplomatic, of July 22, 1937,
from American Legation, Baghdad,
Iraq.

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I

POLITICAL SECTION

"LONDON TIMES" ON POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

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In a general survey of political conditions in Iraq since the coup d'etat of eight months ago, "The Times" says: "It must be frankly and freely admitted that so far the new Prime Minister, Sayid Hikmat Sulaiman, has governed the young State with energy and confidence. The numerous non-Arab minorities have had no cause for complaint -- indeed, the new Government have expressly disclaimed any intention of discriminating between Moslem and non-Moslem, or between Arab, Jew, Turk and Kurd. Their foreign policy has been equally prudent. Dr. Najj al-Asil, Foreign Minister of Iraq, has maintained good relations with the neighbouring Arab States; but he has laid at least as much emphasis on the strengthening of the relations between Iraq and non-Arab neighbours, Turkey and Iran, and on the maintenance of the Anglo-Iraqi alliance. Dr. Najj al-Asil's chief diplomatic task has been the promotion of the close understanding between Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and Iraq ... The economic situation of the country is good; its trade balance is most favourable; the foreign policy of its Government excludes expensive military adventures."

-- The Iraq Times, July 9, 1937.

SHAIKH KHAWWAM RETURNS TO HIS HOME

Shaikh Khawwam had been deported to the Erbil Liwa by the Cabinet of Yasin Al-Hashimi. After the coup d'etat he was permitted to come to Baghdad and now he has been permitted to go to his liwa in Diwaniyah to which he left yesterday.

-- Al-Difa, July 18, 1937.

COMMENT: Shaikh Khawwam was defeated and wounded at Rumaitha during an encounter with the Iraq Army. He was sentenced to death by the military tribunal but the sentence was later commuted and he was allowed to live in the northern districts.

SUPPRESSION OF THE "POPULAR REFORM SOCIETY"

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The Ministry of Interior has issued an order suppressing the "Popular Reform Society" for disseminating destructive ideas, evil intentions and communism.

-- Al-Difa, July 14, 1937.

COMMENT: This society was formed by the former Ministers of Economics and Communications and Education, Kamil Al-Chadirihi and Ibrahim Yusuf Iz-Udin. The former has always been accused of communism and it was through his activities that the cabinet as formerly composed was accused of being communistic.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

RAIS OF THE ROYAL DIWAN; MASTER OF CEREMONIES

A Royal Iradah was issued yesterday appointing Sayid Jamil al-Wadi, the Director-General of Awqaf, to be Rais of the Royal Diwan and Private Secretary to his Majesty the King, succeeding Sayid Ibrahim Kamal, who recently returned to his previous post of Director-General of Customs. Another vacancy among the officials of the Royal Court has been filled by the appointment of Sayid Abdullah al-Damaluji, a former Foreign Minister, as Director of Ceremonies in succession to Sayid Abbas Mahdi, the present Minister of Economics and Communications.

-- The Iraq Times, July 15, 1937.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EDUCATION

A Royal Irada has been issued appointing Dr. Fadhil al-Jamali, Inspector General of Education, as Director General of Education and Public Instruction.

-- Al-Alam Ul-Arabi, July 11, 1937.

Office of Education

COMMENT: Dr. Jamali is a Doctor of Philosophy of Teachers College, Columbia University and is married to an American.

IRAQ ARMY

GRADUATION AT ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE

Seventy-five cadets (a record number) graduated at the Royal Military College in Baghdad this year, and a Royal Iradah has been issued appointing each of them to the rank of Mulazim Thani (2nd Lieutenant) in the Iraq Army.

-- The Iraq Times, July 20, 1937.

STUDENTS FROM YEMEN GRADUATE AS OFFICERS

Among the graduates this year of the Royal Military Academy of Baghdad are ten students who have arrived from Yemen to study in Iraqi schools. Ten other students from Yemen have also graduated from the wireless school. During the annual exercises, General Bekir Sidqi, Chief of the General Staff of the Iraq Army, declared to the Yemenite students that he was attaching great hopes on them for the unification of military culture between Iraq and Yemen. We understand that the Ministry of Defense has given these students military reference books for their future guidance.

--Al-Bilad, July 7, 1937.

SYRIA TO SEND STUDENTS TO MILITARY COLLEGE

It is understood that the Syrian Government has decided to send a large number of Syrian students to Baghdad to join the Royal Military College, in view of Syria's intention to create a modern army on the lines of the Iraq Army.

--The Iraq Times, July 16, 1937.

Office of Education

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O. M. I.

M. I. D.
O. M. I.

M. I. D.
O. M. I.

CHIEF OF STAFF TO ATTEND TURKISH MANEUVERS

We understand that the Council of Ministers has approved of the visit to Turkey of the chief of the General Staff of the Iraq Army to attend the maneuvers of the Turkish Army, which will be held in Thrace on August 16.

--Az-Zaman, July 12, 1937.

II

INTERNATIONAL SECTION

IRANIAN GOVERNMENT PROTESTS TO BRITISH AGAINST NEW REGULATIONS IN BAHREIN

The Iranian Foreign Minister has addressed to the British Minister at Teheran a strong protest against a new regulation in force at the island of Bahrein, which prevents Iranian subjects from landing without a British visa and from acquiring property on the island. The Foreign Minister says that this is incompatible with the claims of Iran to the island. He has sent a copy of his letter to the League for distribution among its members. Great Britain has never recognised the Iran Government's claim to possession of Bahrein. Shaikh Sir Hamad Bin Asa al Khalifa, the present ruler, is in treaty relations with the Government of India, which is represented by a Political Agent.

--The Iraq Times, July 14, 1937.

COMMENT: It is understood that Iranians now owning property in Bahrein are those principally affected by the new regulation.

CROWN PRINCE OF YEMEN MAY VISIT IRAQ

The Arab press asserts that His Highness Seif Ul-Aslam, Crown Prince of Yemen, will shortly pay a visit to a number of Arab countries on his way to Baghdad.

--Al-Istiklal, July 5, 1937.

MUSTAPHA NAHAS PASHA MAY VISIT IRAQ

The Havas correspondent at Baghdad reports that in view of the growing importance of the friendly relations between Iraq and Egypt, it is expected that Mustapha Nahas Pasha, Prime Minister of Egypt, will pay a visit to Iraq next October.

--Al-Istiklal, July 5, 1937.

NEW CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF SAUDI ARABIA

From Riyadh it is learned that His Majesty King Ibn Saud has decided to appoint Shaikh Ibrahim al-Moammar, the Saudi Charge d'Affaires in Baghdad, to the post of Qaimmaqam of the port of Jeddah. The appointment of Shaikh Mohamed al-Rawwaf, the present Qaimmaqam of Jeddah, to the post of Saudi Charge d'Affaires in Baghdad is also announced. Shaikh Ibrahim al-Moammar will be greatly missed in Baghdad, where he has made many friends. For the last four years he has represented his country in the capital of Iraq with ability and distinction.

--The Iraq Times, July 3, 1937.

COMMENT: The new Saudi Arabia Charge' arrived at Baghdad July 10. He presented his letters to the Acting Foreign Minister on July 15 and was received by the King the same day. I understand his position to be that of Charge d'Affaires ad hoc and Consul General.

THE EGYPTIAN PRESS AND IRAQ

"Al-Ihram" of Egypt reports that Abdul Kadir Al-Gailani, Iraqi Charge d'Affaires in Egypt, has called on the Egyptian Foreign Office and expressed his dissatisfaction with the policy followed by certain weekly periodicals against the present cabinet in Iraq and the antagonistic language used by those papers in describing recent events in Iraq.

--Al-Bilad, July 8, 1937.

COMMENT: The articles to which exception has been taken were undoubtedly instigated by the former Foreign Minister, Nuri Pasha As-Said and other Iraqi political exiles in Egypt.

III

ECONOMIC SECTION

A RAILROAD BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN

It has been officially announced at Teheran that DR. Najl Al-Asil, Iraqi Foreign Minister, has proposed to the Iranian Government to undertake a joint scheme for the construction of a railroad between Iraq and Iran. According to news received from official quarters, the Turkish delegation has supported the proposal and accepted that Alexandretta be a center for the Iranian transit trade on the Mediterranean Sea. This latter scheme was previously opposed by the Turks.

--Al-Istiklal, July 14, 1937.

AN IRAQI LOAN TO TURKEY

According to news received from Istanbul and published by the "Tan", an agreement has been reached between the Iraqi and Turkish Governments whereby the Iraqi Government will loan the Turkish Government one million pounds in return for Turkey's share from the Iraqi oil for a period of fifteen years.

--Al-Istiklal, July 14, 1937.

MATCHES FOR DATES

A Swedish merchant visited Basrah a few months ago and discussed with the Date Board and exporters the question of buying dates in return for Swedish matches on the barter system. Inasmuch as matches are a commodity necessary for Iraq it is expected that an agreement will

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be reached between the two parties on this system of trade.

--Al-Bilad, July 6, 1937.

Commerce

A EUROPEAN FIRM SEEKS CONCESSION
FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF PAPER IN IRAQ.

We understand that a European firm has applied to the Iraq government seeking a concession for the manufacture of paper in Iraq out of palm tree fronds and that the application is being examined by the appropriate authorities.

--Al-Difa, July 4, 1937.

OIL AT KUWAIT

According to news received from Basrah the attempts to find oil in the northern part of Kuwait were a failure. Apparently the original report that oil existed in abundance in that area has not been confirmed by the results of drilling operations carried out there.

--Al-Difa, July 8, 1937.

BASRAH AIRPORT

We understand that the inauguration of the Basrah Airport will take place in 1938. Representatives from the different Airports of the world, famous people of the Air and prominent politicians will be invited to attend the ceremony in view of the importance which the Basrah Airport will have in the world's international civil Aviation.

--Al-Difa, July 4, 1937.

K.L.M. EXPANDS ITS AIR SERVICE

The Royal Dutch Air Lines (K.L.M.) has decided to double its air service with effect from October 1, 1937. Six airplanes will from that date land weekly in the Basrah Airport instead of three.

--Al-Bilad, July 5, 1937.

Commerce

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Commerce

COMMENT: Actually the K.L.M. will increase its service from bi-weekly to tri-weekly both East and West. This dutch company uses American Douglas planes exclusively, offering by far the best service of the three great international companies operating to the Orient through Baghdad. At present its passenger space is sold out for weeks in advance.

A COMMERCIAL AIR LINE BETWEEN AMERICA AND THE EAST

Our Commercial correspondent reports that a group of air transport companies in America has decided to connect America with the East by an air line and that one of the companies will shortly make an experimental trip by the shortest route via Baghdad and Basrah.

--Al-Bilad, July 13, 1937.

COMMENT: The above apparently refers to press reports that the American Export Lines have requested permission to experiment with an air service to Mediterranean ports.



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Baghdad, Iraq, August 5, 1937
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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No. 844 - Diplomatic

1937 SEP 2 AM 11 24

subject: Current Events for the period
July 18 to July 31, 1937.

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

OFFICE OF THE ADVISER IN
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
SEP 21 1937
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Commerce
Agriculture

Treasury
Office of Education
Post Office

J.M.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

SEP 18 1937

SEP 3 1937
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

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SEP 22 1937

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Iraq.

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I
POLITICAL SECTION

THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF THE IRAQI FLEET

The first contingent of the Iraqi fleet will arrive in Basrah in two weeks. This consist of two sloops which were bought recently in England. The headquarters of the fleet has been fixed, it is said, at Amarah. Some of the units will be posted at Fao at the head of the Persian Gulf.

--Al-Difa, July 26, 1937.

SMUGGLING ON KUWAIT FRONTIER

Owing to the resumption of smuggling in the southern frontier district during recent months, the authorities, we understand, have agreed to the request of the Basrah customs headquarters for the construction of two new customs posts on the Kuwait border. One post will be built at Najmi, near Basrah, and the other near Zubair. On their completion all the principal routes used in the contraband trade will be under strict supervision, greatly hampering the smugglers' activities.

--The Iraq Times, July 29, 1937.

II
ECONOMIC SECTION

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

We understand that plans are under way for an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition in Baghdad at the beginning of next year. This - Baghdad's second exhibition - is intended to be wider in scope than the previous one. Invitations are to be sent to neighbouring states, and in particular to the signatories of the Four-power Asiatic Pact as well as to the other members of the Arab Alliance - Saudi Arabia and the Yaman. The Ministry of Finance is

considering

M. J. D.

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Treasury

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considering the appointment of a special committee to organise the exhibition.

--The Iraq Times, July 22, 1937.

EXPANSION OF THE CITY OF BAGHDAD

Sir William Max Muller went on to say. "The city of Baghdad is expanding, and the municipality has shown activity in promoting town-planning schemes. Considerable developments are either in course of execution or are contemplated in the near future. New streets of more modern aspect are being opened; new public buildings are in course of construction; two bridges over the Tigris will shortly be commenced; the embankment along the river is to be extended, and a public bathing establishment is projected a little way out of the city. I have also heard that there is a tendency to raise the standard of illumination in public places. All such developments should involve an increased consumption of our current."

--The Iraq Times, July 23, 1937.

COMMENT: Sir William is Chairman of the Baghdad Light and Power Co., Limited, and was commenting on his company's increased business during the last year.

EXTENSION OF EXPERIMENTAL FARMS

The Government has come to the conclusion that the value of experimental farms has been proved in this country. It has therefore been decided to establish an experimental farm in each of the 14 liwas. The local cultivators will be given practical demonstrations in modern methods of farming, and it is thought that there will be a general improvement in the standard of crops throughout the country. We understand that provision for the experimental farms has been made in the budget of the Department of Agriculture.

--The Iraq Times, August 3, 1937.

*Agriculture
Committee*

Agriculture

ACTIVITIES OF NEW AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL BANK

The Administrative Board of the Agricultural and Industrial Bank has written to the Mutasarrifs of all liwas informing them of the Bank's readiness to grant advances to cultivators. The Bank has decided to open branches in certain liwas to facilitate business with those engaged in agriculture.

--The Iraq Times, July 27, 1937.

COMMENT: The Manager of this new official bank has been showing considerable initiative of late in various projects for the improvement of agriculture in Iraq.

PROPAGANDA FOR IRAQI DATE INDUSTRY

The Basrah Date Board has received the approval of the authorities in Baghdad to its request to be allowed to spend I.D.4,000 on propaganda for the Iraqi date industry in Europe. We understand that the Iraqi representatives at the Paris Exhibition have been instructed to arrange for this campaign.

--The Iraq Times, July 28, 1937.

COMMENT: The Minister of Economics and Communications recently spoke to me of the intention to advertise Iraqi dates abroad. He indicated that the government would also undertake propaganda in the United States.

BOLLWORM IN BASRAH COTTON PLANTATIONS

An attack of bollworm is reported in the Basrah cotton plantations. The Department of Agriculture has ordered that the bolls of the infected cotton plants be picked and destroyed to stop the spread of the disease.

--Al-Alam Ul-Arabi, July 20, 1937.

BASRAH OIL

We understand that according to geological reports the petroleum deposits of the Basrah district do not contain oil as good in quality as that of the Kirkuk district.

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The Basrah oil has, however, its advantage, in that its production cost is expected to be lower than that of Kirkuk's. The expense of transporting construction materials to the oilfield and that for shipping the oil to the world will be relatively very small.

--Al-Difa, July 30, 1937.

ALLEGED PETROLEUM CONCESSION IN DUBAI

We understand that Major Holmes arrived in Kuwait this week after having obtained an oil concession at Dubai where he expects to start operation within 4 months. We also understand that Major Holmes had a hard time in getting the concession in view of the desire of the Amir there not to grant a concession to a foreign company.

Al-Istiklal, July 30, 1937.

COAL AND PETROLEUM AT QATAR

According to reports received recently from Qatar the geologists have discovered along the shores of Qatar coal in addition to the rich petroleum deposits there. This discovery has created strong competition among mining companies and led to the attack by Bahrain of the part of the shore where minerals are reported to exist in abundance.

--Al-Difa, July 21, 1937.

COMMENT: For a report on the recent dispute between the sheikhs of Bahrain and Qatar, see my despatches Nos. 831 and 841 of July 22 and August 4, 1937, respectively.

COMPLETION OF WATER-SUPPLY SYSTEM FOR BASRAH, MARGIL AND ZUBAIR.

Congratulations are due to the Port Directorate on the completion of its water-supply scheme for the towns of Basrah, Margil, and Zubair. We are indebted for the following brief summary of these improvements to the report of the Medical Officer of Health, Basrah, Dr. P. E.

Attisha.

Attisha. A modern plant has been erected at Jubailah capable of supplying the inhabitants with a daily allowance per head of 20 to 30 gallons of pure water for drinking and domestic purposes. The water is taken direct from the Shatt al-Arab, by means of electrically driven pumps, to the clarifier, which has a capacity of 350,000 gallons. After filtering and sterilisation the water is distributed to consumers by separate mains to Margil and Basrah, which, with the town of Zubair, have a total population of 128,000. The water for Basrah is pumped to a high-level tank having a capacity of 200,000 gallons. This tank supplies the Ashar area, while there are two other tanks in Basrah City, from one of which a 6-inch pipe supplies Zubair. The quality of the new water is stated to be excellent, clear, and sweet, with little or no taste of chlorine. Basrah has thus become the possessor of a water supply of which she may well be proud, and which should have the most beneficial effect on the health of the people.

--The Iraq Times, July 23, 1937.

COMMENT: The above is indicative of the large public works program being carried out in Iraq.

III MISCELLANEOUS SECTION

EXPORT OF IRANIAN PRODUCTS VIA IRAQ

The Iranian Government formerly prohibited Iranian merchants to export their products from the northern districts to Tel Ketchek via Iraq, but compelled them to use the southern route to the sea. We understand that that Government has now allowed Iranian merchants to export their products through Iraq via Tebriz, Rayat and Rowanduz to the West. This new route is shorter and less expensive.

Furthermore,

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Furthermore, Iraq will benefit greatly from this transit trade.

--Al-Bilad, July 29, 1937.

POSTAL REMITTANCES BETWEEN IRAQ, SYRIA AND LEBANON

With effect from August 1, 1937, a postal remittance system will be instituted between Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. This will be a great relief for the Iraqis who spend every summer in Syria.

AZ-Zaman, July 31, 1937.

SUMMER EXODUS FROM BAGHDAD

No fewer than 4,000 people left Baghdad this summer for holiday resorts abroad. The exodus began in May. It is estimated by the trans-desert transport companies that well over 3,000 of the passenger traffic carried went to the Lebanon. The rest, including representatives of the various crafts and industries, have gone to Europe, attracted by the International Exhibition in Paris. During the last three months Nairn's carried a quarter of the holiday traffic across the desert. The air-conditioned car alone, packed to capacity every trip, has carried a total of 400 passengers. Demands for bookings on this car have been heavy in view of the comfort afforded by a cool temperature throughout the journey.

--The Iraq Times, July 31, 1937.

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE

The expansion of national education in Iraq has brought about an acute shortage of qualified teachers, and the building of elementary schools in many parts of the country is retarded by the difficulty of staffing schools when they have been built. In this connection we are interested to hear of a proposal to build a new teachers' Training

Training

Commerce

Post Office

Office of Education

Training College in the country - at Abu Ghuraib. The new college would be supplementary to the two training schools already existing in Baghdad.

--The Iraq Times, July 24, 1937.

PROPOSALS FOR THE ERADICATION OF ILLITERACY IN IRAQ

The Director of Public Instruction, Dr. Fadhil al-Jamali, who recently spent a month in Turkey studying the Turkish educational system, has submitted a report on his visit to the Ministry of Education. We understand that, at the request of the Ministry, educational experts have now submitted proposals for the expansion of elementary education throughout the country over a period of 30 years with a view to the eradication of illiteracy, particularly among the tribesmen. The proposals are at present under consideration.

--The Iraq Times, July 27, 1937.

COMMENT: Dr. Jamali is a graduate of Columbia University.

VALUE OF IRAQI EDUCATIONAL CERTIFICATES ABROAD

It has been customary for the United States, Germany and France to accept in their universities students from Iraq holding the official certificate of the secondary schools without an examination except for the language of study. England, however, refuses to admit into its universities students not holding a Matriculation certificate. This practice seems to cause a delay of one year for the student. In accordance with the Treaty of Alliance between Iraq and Great Britain which gives recognition to the certificates granted by the Ministry of Education, this Ministry has written to the British Government requesting it to accept holders of secondary certificates

who

Office of Education
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Office of Education

who would graduate from the Language School which it is proposed to open during the next academic year, without the necessity of passing an examination for matriculation, similar to other western countries which accept Iraqi students on this basis.

--al-Bilad, July 29, 1937.

COMMENT: This request of the Iraqi Government appears to be causing the British Embassy a certain amount of embarrassment. The First Secretary consulted me twice concerning the situation in the United States in connection with a report he was writing on the subject.

Handwritten notes:
of Education
[Signature]

Handwritten note:
[Signature]



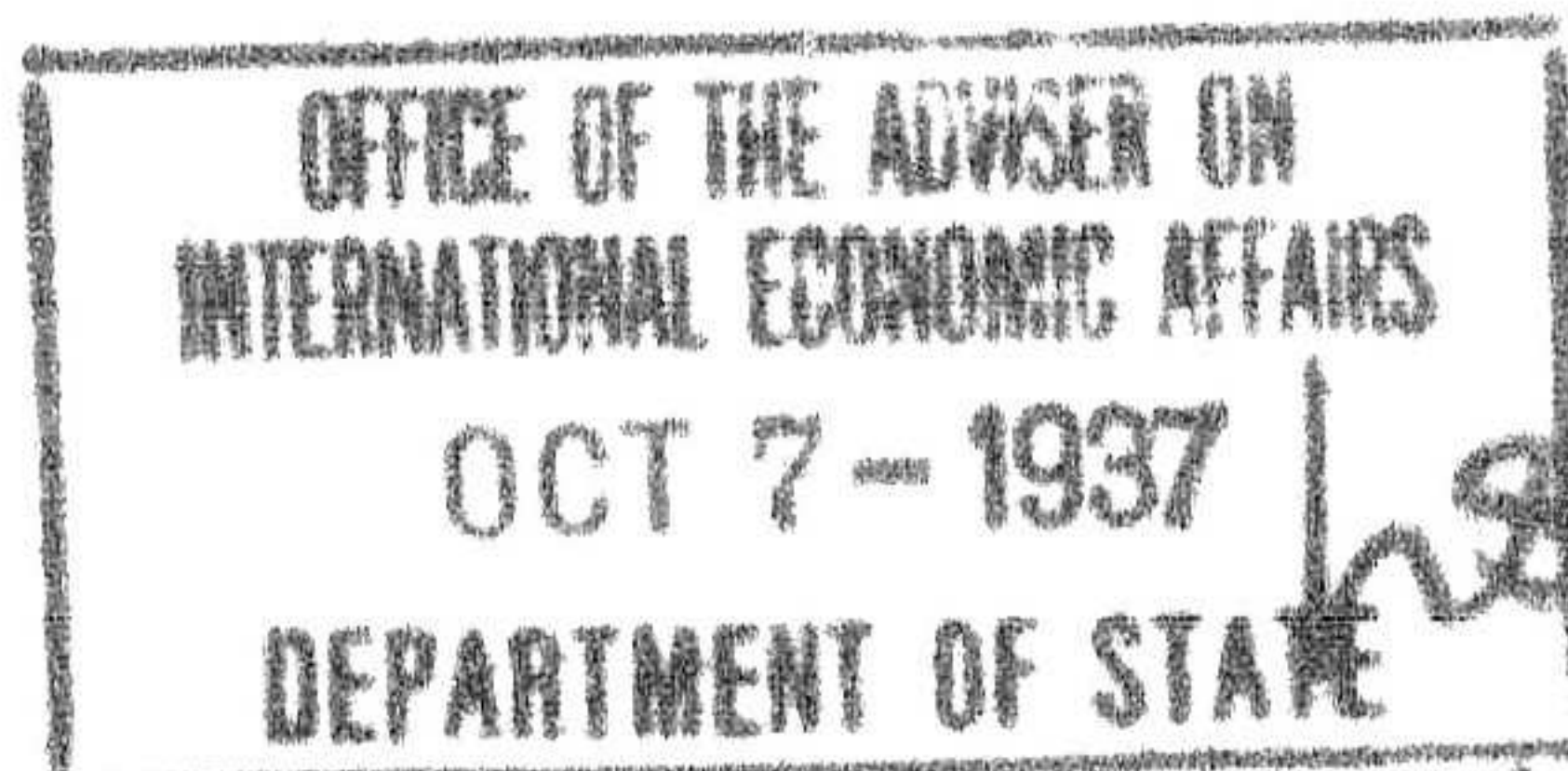
LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Baghdad, Iraq, August 19, 1937.

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Eu (34, 1, 2, 5)
PI (A, 3)

No. 851 - Diplomatic

Subject: Current Events for the Fortnight
August 1 to August 14, 1937.



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To the Honorable

In U. S. A.

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C. M. I.
Agriculture
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OCT 1 - 1937

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

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Charge d'Affaires a.i.

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OCT 8 1937

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I
POLITICAL SECTION

1. PROBABLE DISSOLUTION OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

In an article discussing the rumor of the impending dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, the paper remarks that since 1932, five parliamentary elections have taken place in the country, which means that the life of each chamber was not more than one year. The paper believes that "bad selection and election" has caused this unsettled condition of the parliamentary life of the country. The paper concludes its article by stating "we do not regret the dissolution of a Chamber of Deputies which cannot prove that it is worth existing and living."

--Az-Zaman, August 7, 1937.

COMMENT: Before the current political crisis caused by the murder of General Bekir Sidqi, there was considerable discussion in the press as to the probable dissolution of the Majlis. Although his government had been strengthened to all appearances by his strong opposition to the partition of Palestine and although he already controlled the Chamber, I understand that Hikmet Guleiman had agreed to the dissolution. This was reportedly because of the desire of the four new Ministers in the cabinet to have their own friends in the Chamber. Furthermore, some of the friends of the former Ministers remaining in the Chamber were accused of being communists. With the formation of a new Ministry the dissolution of the Chamber seems practically certain.

2. SUPPRESSION OF COMMUNISM IN IRAQ

a. We have been informed that strict orders have been given for the prevention of communistic publications from entering this country. The Propaganda and Publicity Section of the Ministry of Interior has been instructed to exercise strict control over periodicals which are known to have communistic tendencies.

--The Iraq Times, August 3, 1937.

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b. We are informed that the Council of Ministers has decided to deprive two brothers of Iraqi nationality - Sayid Abdul Kadir Ismail, editor of "Al-Ahali" (a Deputy in the present Majlis) and Sayid Yusuf Ismail, a clerk in the Iraqi Legation in Paris. Both are accused of communistic activities. Sayid Yusuf has already been dismissed from his post, while Sayid Abdul Kadir, on being deprived of Iraqi nationality, automatically ceases to become a member of the Chamber of Deputies.

--The Iraq Times, August 16, 1937.

COMMENT: The campaign against communism was undertaken after the resignation in June of four cabinet Ministers, one of whom, Kamil al-Chaderchi, was considered the leader of the communists in Iraq. The two Ismails who have been deprived of nationality are brothers of Khalil Ismail the new Director General of the Foreign Office. The latter, however, disowns his communist brothers.

Another feature of the campaign against communism has been the suppression for one year of "Al-Ahali," the organ of Kamil al-Chaderchi and his Popular Reform Party, and the lifting of the ban against "Al-Iraq", which was suspended for a year for accusing the members of the Popular Reform Party of having communistic tendencies.

3. DEPARTURE OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN IRAQ FOR ENGLAND

Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, British Ambassador in Iraq, has left Baghdad for England where he will spend his vacation. Before his departure, he was received in audience by His Majesty The King.

--Al-Alam Ul-Arabi, August 5, 1937.

COMMENT: Sir Archibald was accompanied by Captain Vivian Holt, the Oriental Secretary of the British Embassy. The two other highest ranking British officers in Iraq are also away on leave. Air Vice Marshal C. L. Courtney, commanding the British Forces in Iraq, left on the morning of August 12th, apparently before learning

of the assassination^s of General Bekir Sidqi. Major General A. W. M. Watson, Chief of the British Military Mission, went to Palestine to visit his old regiment and is now seriously ill there of enteric fever. The Ambassador had postponed his leave more than a month on account of the report of the Royal Commission on Palestine.

4. ARRIVAL OF TWO NEW IRAQI COAST GUARD VESSELS

The two Iraqi sloops bought by the Iraqi Government in England arrived at Basrah on the S. S. "Armenistan" on August 1, 1937. They are of the coast guard type.

--Al-Difa, August 2, 1937.

COMMENT: Other press reports state that these two vessels, mentioned in the previous Current Events Report, are of 60 tons draft, 80 feet in length with a speed of 16 knots. They are to be used for guarding the coasts after their armament has been installed.

II
INTERNATIONAL SECTION

5. PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PHILIPPINES AT BASRAH.

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Mr. Jose Mafelsu (?), President of the National Assembly of Manila, Philippine Islands, arrived at Basrah by airplane on August 9, 1937 on his way to India. During his short stay he expressed his sincere wish to establish commercial relations between his country and Iraq, particularly in connection with the date and grain trade. He promised to discuss this question with his government.

--Al-Difa, August 13, 1937.

6. IRAQ AND THE PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

The Council of Ministers has approved of a bill whereby Iraq accepts the constitution and the jurisdiction of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

--Al-Difa, August 2, 1937.

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7. KING GHAZI MAY VISIT EGYPT NEXT WINTER

According to news received from Cairo, it is reported in semi-official quarters that His Majesty King Ghazi will be paying an unofficial visit to Egypt next winter. During the presence of His Majesty in the Nile Valley, it is expected that negotiations will be opened for the conclusion of an Iraqi-Egyptian treaty. Negotiations will also take place with certain Egyptian financiers concerning the exploitation of Iraq's natural resources.

--Az-Zaman, August 7, 1937.

8. COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

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At Teheran after the signature of the Saadabad Pact, the Iraqi delegates availed themselves of the occasion and opened negotiations with the Afghan delegates for the conclusion of a commercial agreement between the two countries. It is understood that most of the articles of the proposed convention have been drafted and that the delegates will complete the negotiations at a later date.

--Al-Bilad, August 9, 1937.

9. AN ISLAMIC LEAGUE

RAH

According to a message received from London, the Crown Prince of Yemen and Shaikh Abdul Ghafour are endeavoring to organize an Islamic League. The heads of the governments of Egypt, Turkey, Iran, Syria, Transjordan and Iraq have discussed this subject and propose to hold their first meeting in Ankara.

--Al-Difa, August 3, 1937.

10. NURI AS-SAID MAY FORM THE NEW CABINET IN TRANSJORDAN

According to news received from Beirut, Nuri Pasha As-Said, the former Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been invited by the Transjordan Government to form its new government.

--Al-Difa, August 15, 1937.

COMMENT: There have of course been many rumors in Baghdad that Nuri Pasha would be invited to return to Iraq to help form the new government. However, there are no indications that he will return for some time yet.

11. STUDENTS FROM ADEN

Five students from Aden arrived in Baghdad on August 6, 1937, to pursue their studies in the Iraqi Schools.

--Al-Istiklal, August 8, 1937.

12. LAND MARKS BETWEEN IRAQ AND SYRIA

The Iraqi and Syrian Governments have agreed to place land marks along the frontier separating Iraq from Syria. The expense will be shared equally by the two governments.

--Al-Bilad, August 5, 1937.

13. CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND IRAQ

Desirous of strengthening the cultural relations between France and Iraq we understand that the French Ministry of Education has made a present to the Iraq Ministry of Education of scientific, historical and literary books valued at about forty thousand francs. Those books will be distributed to public libraries for the benefit of interested readers.

--Al-Bilad, August 8, 1937.

III ECONOMIC SECTION

14. TURKISH AND AMERICAN TOBACCO SEEDS

The Department of Agriculture had imported tobacco seeds from Turkey and America and planted them in the government farm of Bakrajaw in Sulaimaniyah. Experiments have been made with various types and few of them have given good results. The Department believes, however, that these seeds can be planted with some success and is

therefore

Agriculture

therefore experimenting with a new method of cultivation.

--Al-Istiklal, August 6, 1937.

15. NO OIL IN KOWEIT

No oil has been found within the concession area in Koweit at a depth of over 4,500 feet. According to a report submitted by the Chief Engineer of the company the permanent oil deposit in that area is within the Iraqi territory and its evaporation is in Koweit. Oil companies are therefore directing their efforts for the exploitation of the oil deposits of the southern part of Iraq.

--Al-Difa, August 3, 1937.

16. SUSPENSION OF CAPITAL WORKS IN NORTHERN DISTRICTS

We understand that the Accountant General has instructed the appropriate authorities in Mosul to stop the construction of modern villages, filling of swamps and installations of electric and water systems for the remaining part of the fiscal year 1937-38.

--Al-Istiklal, August 3, 1937.

COMMENT: The reason is understood to be a shortage of funds for public works, due partly to the reduction of the loan floated in London from the three originally intended to one million pounds. (My despatch No. 843 of August 5, 1937).

17. FISHING INDUSTRY IN IRAQ

Mr. Blegrade, a Danish expert in fisheries, was invited last year by the Iranian government to organize the fisheries in southern Iran. He visited Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Bunder Shahpur and the Iraqi frontier in that part. He reported favorably on the possibility of organizing fisheries on commercial basis. According to technical reports the Shatt al-Arab and the entrance to the Persian Gulf are rich in fish. In view of the great demand for Iraqi fish from Palestine, Syria and Greece, an Iraqi company with a capital of 50,000 Dinars is in

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course of organization for the purpose of instituting fisheries along modern lines and exporting Iraqi fish abroad in sealed cans.

--Al-Difa, August 3, 1937.

18. PEARL FISHERIES IN PERSIAN GULF

Following the cessation of hostilities between Bahrain and Qatar, pearl fishing has resumed its normal activities in the Persian Gulf. It is reported that the present season is expected to surpass previous years inasmuch as foreign markets have at present no stocks of pearls.

--Al-Difa, August 5, 1937.

COMMENT: As reported in my despatch No. 841 of August 4, 1937, there were apparently no real combats between the shaikhs of Bahrain and Qatar.

19. RAILWAY SYSTEM BETWEEN IRAQ AND TURKEY

According to news received from Ankara, Bai Ferdy, President of the Turkish Commission to negotiate with the Iraqi Government the linking of the Iraqi-Turkish railway systems, has returned to Ankara and submitted his report to the Turkish Prime Minister. He stated in his report that the Turkish-Iraqi railway should begin at Diarbekir, proceed parallel to the Tigris river and meet the Iraqi-Syrian lines at a point 8 Kilometers East of the Khabur river. He suggested in his report that work should start on this project next fall.

--Al-Istiklal, August 8, 1937.

20. EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL DEPOSITS

"Al-Bilad" announces that the Government has decided to undertake the exploitation of mineral deposits in Iraq "on a large scale and on technical lines." Our contemporary adds that a committee of jurists and

technical

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technical experts has been formed to examine the scheme and to draw up a law for its execution. They have held a series of meetings and are now nearing the end of their task. The draft law which is being framed, says "Al-Bilad," will give the Government a free hand for the scientific exploitation of the country's mineral resources.

--The Iraq Times, August 7, 1937.

21. NEW DREDGER FOR BASRAH

The dredger "Basrah," one of the most powerful dredgers ever built on the Clyde, will be launched next month from the yard of W. Simons & Co. Ltd., Renfrew. The vessel is intended for service at the bar of the Shatt al-Arab, in the Persian Gulf.

--The Iraq Times, August 11, 1937.

22. AUGMENTATION OF AIR SERVICE AT BAGHDAD

New air services from Baghdad will begin next October, when an average of three air-liners a day will be scheduled either to take off or land at the Baghdad Airport. This is due to the augmentation of one service and the introduction of another. The K.L.M., increasing their bi-weekly service, will fly through Baghdad to Batavia and Amsterdam three times a week, operating Douglas D C 3 machines on alternate days. The Deutsche Lufthansa will extend their line from Athens to Baghdad for the first time, flying once a week. An experimental flight on the Athens-Baghdad route will be undertaken by the Lufthansa on August 15th. Two other European air transport companies, the Italian Ala Littoria and the Polish Lots, are considering an extension of their service from Haifa to Iraq. Baghdad to-day is one of the best-served air centres for mails, having five air-mail services to Europe a week. It will be possible to send letters by air to Europe each day

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of the week if the projected services are allowed to carry mails.

--The Iraq Times, August 10, 1937.

COMMENT:

The German Minister informs me that the first Lufthansa plane has already passed through Baghdad and proceeded to Teheran. Weekly service is assured, he says, as far as Teheran and he hopes it will be extended to Kabul.

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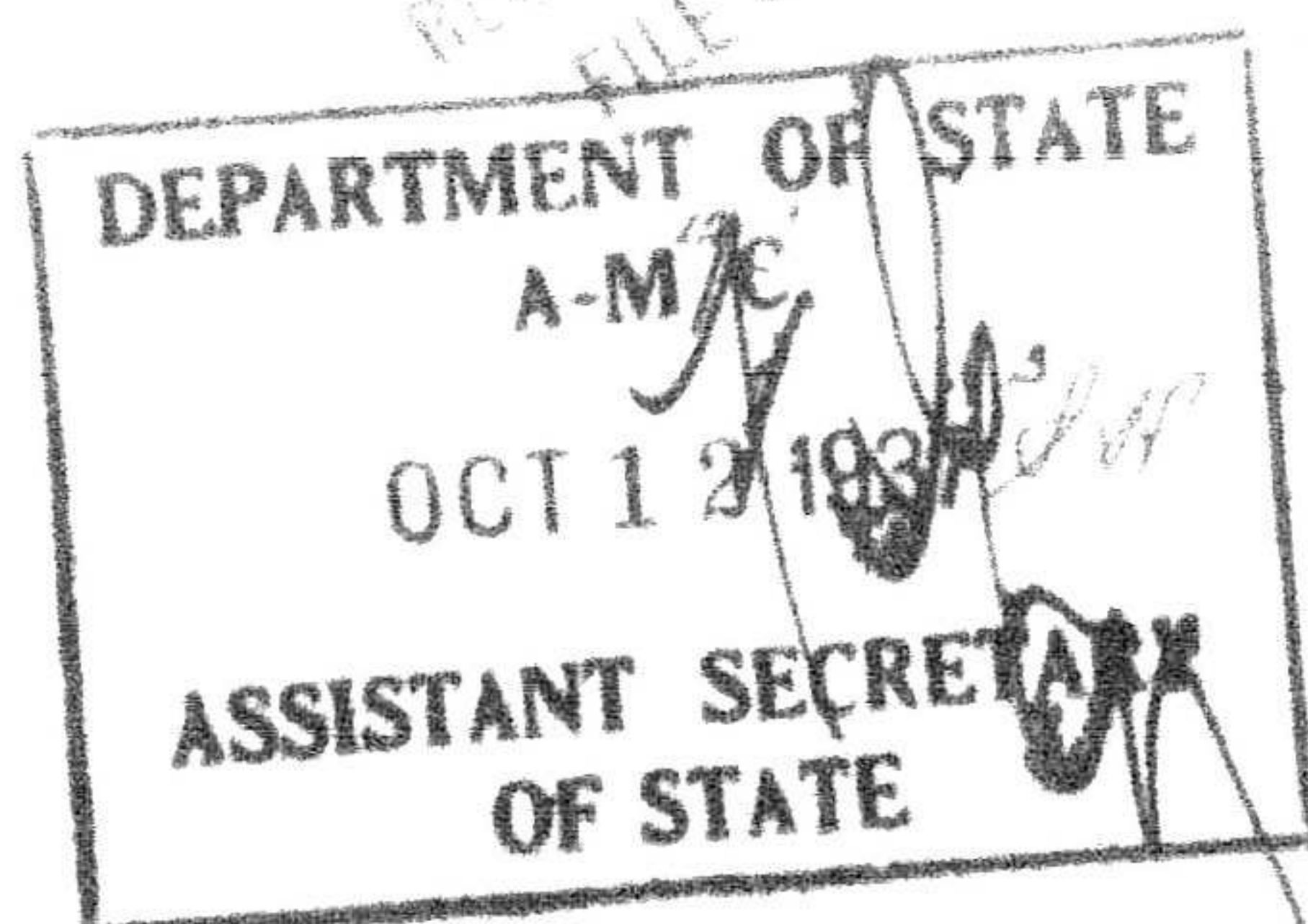
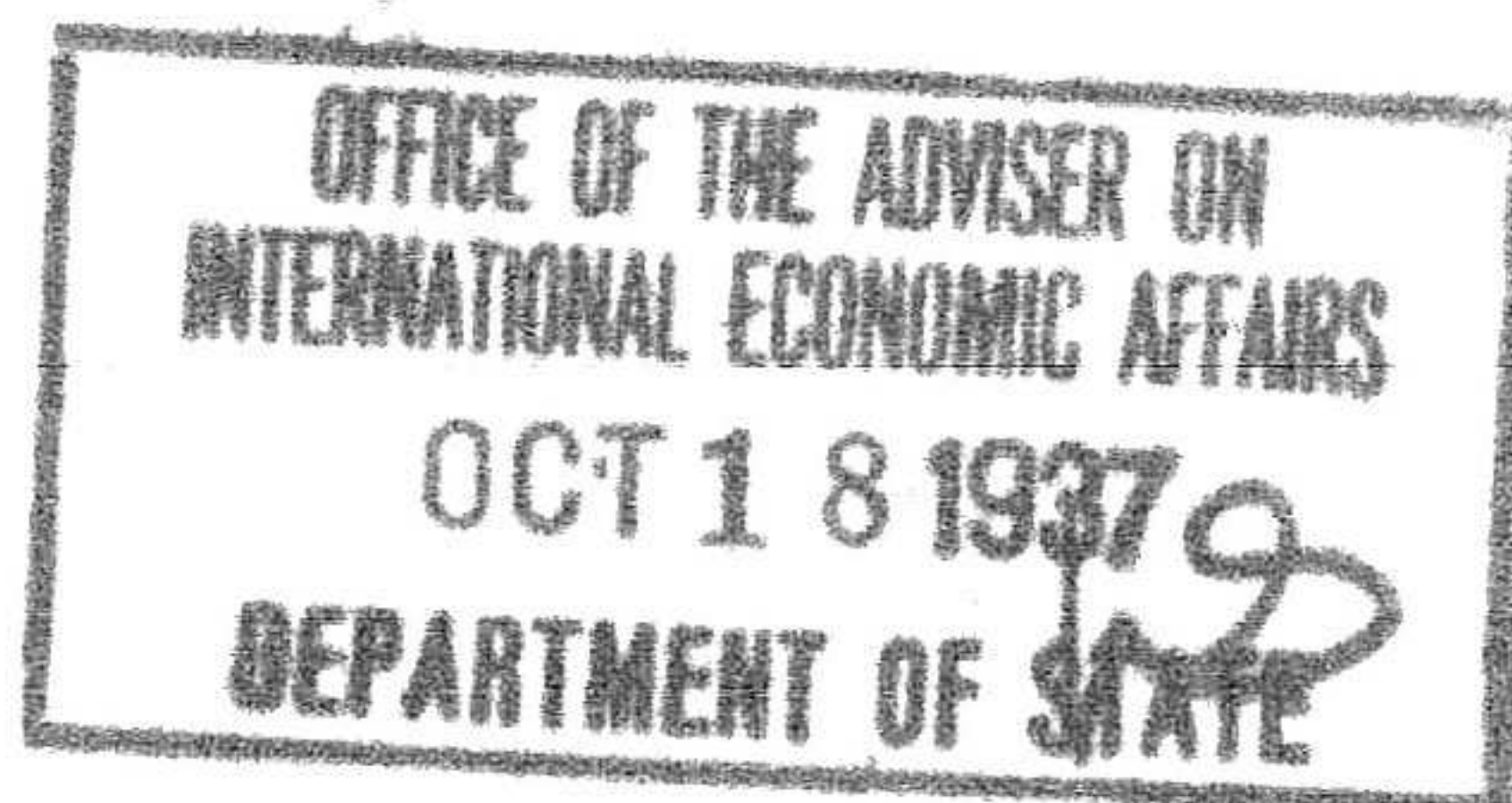
LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Baghdad, Iraq, September 2, 1937

No. 863 - Diplomatic

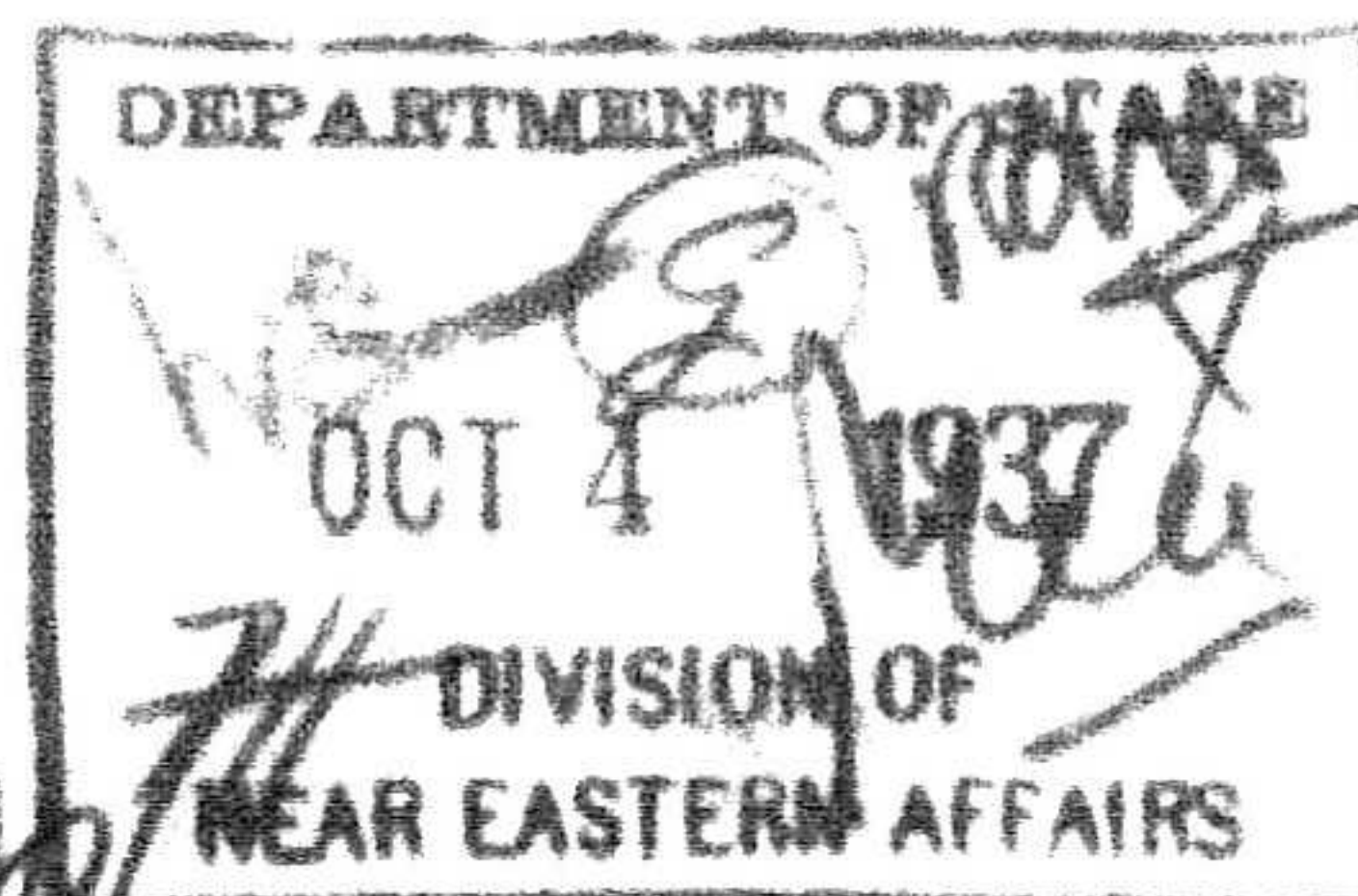
1937 OCT 2 AM 11 13

subject: Current Events for the fortnight
August 15 to August 28, 1937

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS



EXTRACTS TO
To the Field
In U. S. A.
Office of Education
Commercial
Agricultural
Marine
Fed. Communications
OCT 13 1937



The Honorable

The Secretary of State, Division of
Washington, D.C. FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
OCT 27 1937
Department of State

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith summaries or
copies of certain news items appearing in the local press
during the fortnight August 15 to August 28, 1937, which
may be of minor interest to the Department. Brief comment
has been made when considered appropriate.

Respectfully yours,

Enclosure:

Current Events.

File No. 891

JCS/jgb.

copies to: American Embassy, London
American Legation, Teheran
American Consulate General, Beirut
American Consulate General, Jerusalem

Joseph C. Satterthwaite
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

890G.00 GENERAL CONDITIONS/109

N/C

Enclosure to Despatch No. 863 -
Diplomatic, of September 2, 1937,
from American Legation, Baghdad,
Iraq.

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I
POLITICAL SECTION

1. MOTHER OF DHIA YUNIS APPEALS TO THE NEW CABINET

In a telegram sent to the Press the mother of Dhia Yunis requests that an investigation be carried out into the murder of her son.

--Al-Istiklal, August 24, 1937.

COMMENT: Dhia Yunis was shot by unknown people during the term of office of Hikmet Sulaiman's cabinet. The Criminal Investigation Department did not attempt to find the assailants who, it was reported, were well known to the Government. Dhia Yunis opposed the Government when the constitution of the Popular Reform Party was taken to the Legal Drafting Department, of which he was an official, for examination.

2. FAWZI AL QAWOOQCHI RETURNS TO BAGHDAD

Fawzi Al Qawooqchi, the leader of the Palestine rebellion, has arrived at Baghdad from Kirkuk where he was banished by Hikmet Sulaiman's Government.

--Al-Istiklal, August 24, 1937.

II
INTERNATIONAL SECTION

3. NURI AS-SAID WILL NOT BE THE PRIME MINISTER OF TRANSJORDAN

The Court of Amir Abdullah of Transjordan has published a statement denying officially the rumor that Nuri As-Said of Iraq has been invited to form the new cabinet of Transjordan.

--Al-Inkilab, August 21, 1937.

COMMENT: The report that Nuri Pasha had been offered this position was mentioned in section 10 of the previous "Current Events" despatch (No. 851 of April 19, 1937).

4. DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAQ AND THE YEMEN TO BE ESTABLISHED

In order to encourage and maintain friendship between Iraq and the Yemen it has been decided to establish Diplomatic and consular relations between the two States. We understand that provision has already been made in the budget of the Iraq Foreign Ministry for the opening of the new establishments.

--The Iraq Times, August 26, 1937.

5. IRAQI STUDENTS TO VISIT ITALY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

Nine students from the American School for Boys or American Jesuits Baghdad College will be leaving Baghdad today for Syria on their way to Italy on a month's visit at the expense of the Italian government.

--AZ-Zaman, August 16, 1937.

COMMENT: The Italian Legation at Baghdad arranges similar visits every year.

III
ECONOMIC SECTION

6. EXPORT OF EGGS FROM IRAQ

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1935, about 19 million eggs valued at 21,000 Dinars were exported from Iraq. During the fiscal year 1935-36, the quantity of eggs exported was 17 million valued at 20,000 Dinars. During the calendar year of 1936, the quantity of eggs exported was 11 million valued at 15,000 Dinars. (The value of the Dinar is about five dollars).

--Al-Alam Ul-Arabi, August 17, 1937.

7. IMPORTATION OF SHEEP FROM IRAN

As a result of the recent raising of the embargo on the

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the importation of Iranian sheep into this country, a considerable number have recently entered Iraq. At Basrah alone the number of sheep imported from Iran in recent weeks is given at 1,200. The public are hopeful that the price of mutton (which has been raised this year in common with most other commodities) will shortly be reduced in view of the new source of supply available for Iraq.

--The Iraq Times, August 28, 1937.

8. PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF GRAIN ELEVATORS

The Agricultural and Industrial Bank intends to increase the facilities for grain exporters by the provision of six large granaries in Baghdad. One will be constructed near Baghdad West railway station, another at Baghdad North station, and the remainder in other quarters of the city. A proposal is also before the authorities for the establishment of Chambers of Agriculture in Iraq, on similar lines to the present Chambers of Commerce. It is understood that, as an experiment, one such chamber will be opened in Baghdad, to be followed, if it is successful, by others in different districts.

--The Iraq Times, August 17, 1937.

9. CABLE BETWEEN IRAQ AND INDIA OUT OF ORDER

The cable used for the exchange of telegrams between Iraq and India is out of order. Telegrams from Iraq to India are now being transmitted by wireless via Egypt. The Indian Cable Company is at present repairing the defect.

--Al-Zaman, August 16, 1937.

COMMENT: As the only other cable connecting Baghdad with the outside world has been out of order for several months, it is now impossible to send a telegram from here to the United States without the use of radio as far as Egypt at least.

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10. EXPLOITATION OF OIL DEPOSITS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ

We have now received further information concerning the offer to the Iraq Government of the petroleum company desiring to obtain a concession of the Basrah petroleum deposit. The company is said to have offered the Iraq government a loan of one million Iraqi Dinars to be paid back without interest within a period of 20 years. The company expects to send a representative to Baghdad to negotiate the concession with the Government.

--Al-Bilad, August 16, 1937.

COMMENT: This may refer to the American group (Seaboard oil company) which is now negotiating for oil concessions in southern Iraq.

11. PROJECT OF THE PERSIAN GULF RAILWAY LINE

Negotiations are being conducted between the oil companies and the British authorities in the Persian Gulf on the one side and certain Arab Princes there on the other to construct railway lines along the Arabian side of the coast to be joined to the Iraqi railway line which is connected with the express European railway.

It is stated that the political discussions between the British Ambassador at Jedda and His Majesty King Ibn Saud and some Persian Gulf Princes were in connection with this matter.

It is also stated that His Majesty King Ibn Saud has proposed that these lines should be laid from the Arabian coast to his domain in Al-Ihsa'a and to Riyadh via Basrah and that the Riyadh line should have a branch to be connected with Mejaz also.

--Al-Istiklal, August 19, 1937.

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12. A JAPANESE AIR LINE BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE ORIENT

The Japanese Masaki Daiuma Company will be running a regular air service between Europe and the East passing through Baghdad and Basrah airports, next winter.

--Az-Zaman, August 23, 1937.

COMMENT: This is the only reference of any kind which I have seen or heard concerning this ENTERPRISE.

13. BAGHDAD TO TEHERAN IN THREE HOURS

A telegram received from Teheran this morning states that an aeroplane of the German Lufthansa Company arrived there at noon yesterday from Baghdad, having covered the distance in three hours. The machine is piloted by Herr von Gablenz, a director of the Lufthansa Company, assisted by Flight Commander Untucht, and carries as passengers the German Minister in Kabul and the Afghan Minister in Berlin. The object of the flight is to survey the route for the proposed Lufthansa service to the Far East. The machine will fly to Shanghai via Kabul. It left Berlin on Saturday, stayed the night at Rhodes, and arrived in Baghdad on Sunday evening. Special fuel tanks have been fitted in the plane, which has an exceptional range, being capable of a non-stop flight of well over 3,000 miles. This flight will be followed by other survey flights, on the next of which a similar machine will leave Berlin on Saturday next.

--The Iraq Times, August 18, 1937.

COMMENT: For further comment on this German company see my despatch No. 861 of September 1, 1937 on the Commercial Air Services through Baghdad.

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IV
MISCELLANEOUS SECTION

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14. NEW IRAQI VISA REGULATION

The Ministry of Interior have issued the following instructions under Article 15 of the Residence Law of 1923: "There shall be excepted from the application of Article 15 of the Residence Law of 1923, requiring persons to obtain visa for entry into Iraq on each occasion on which entry is desired, foreigners whose normal business requires them frequently to visit Iraq, provided that such persons shall obtain from the Director of Residence, Baghdad, an entry visa valid for one year from date of issue and good for any number of journeys within the year. Such visa is to be renewed upon the expiration of its validity."

--The Iraq Times, August 21, 1937.

15. 125 IRAQI STUDENTS TO STUDY ABROAD

We understand that it has been decided that the number of Iraqi students to be sent abroad this year should be increased to 125. The number previously mentioned was 80. Twenty young Iraqis have been sent to Egypt for training as irrigation engineers. On the completion of their studies in the Irrigation training colleges they will be attached for one year to the Egyptian Irrigation Department, in order that they may gain some practical experience before their return to Iraq.

JRC
Office of Education

--The Iraq Times, August 21, 1937.

COMMENT: At least ten Iraqi Government students will study in the United States during the next school year and it is the intention of the Director General of Education to send forty or fifty the following year.



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LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Baghdad, Iraq, September 16, 1937.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

No. 871 - Diplomatic

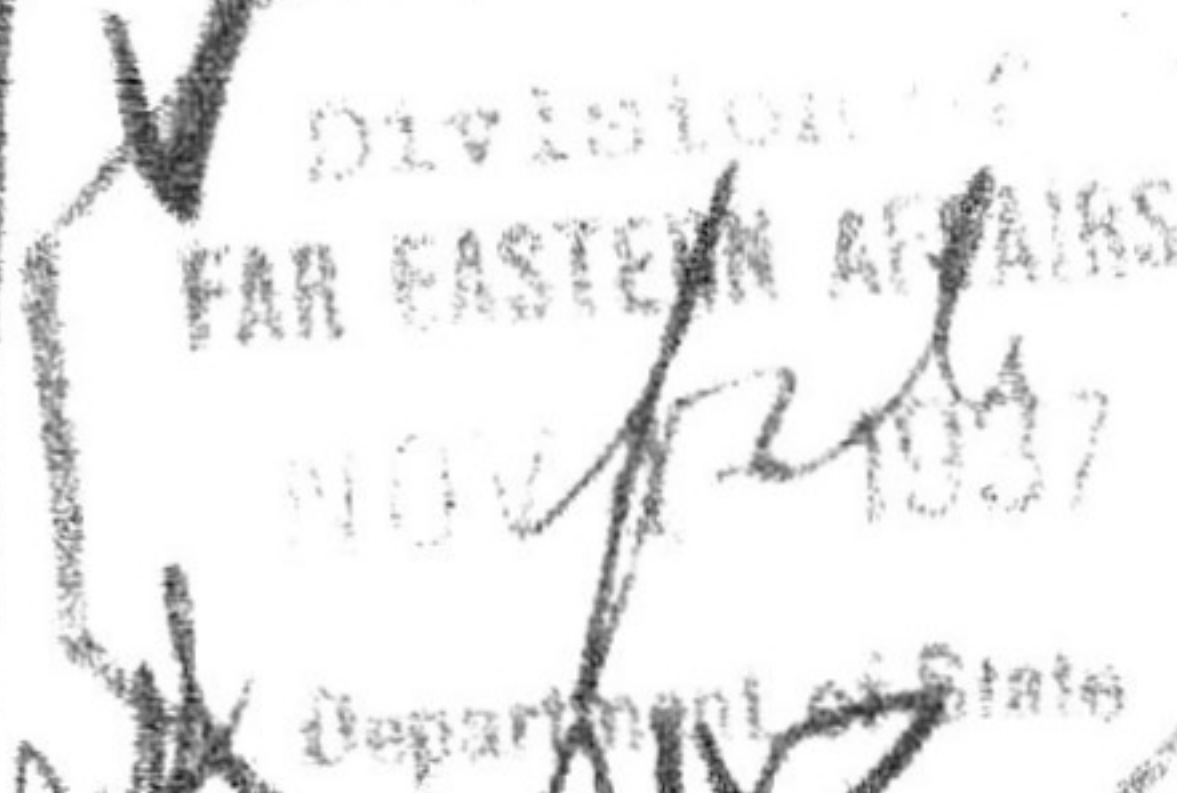
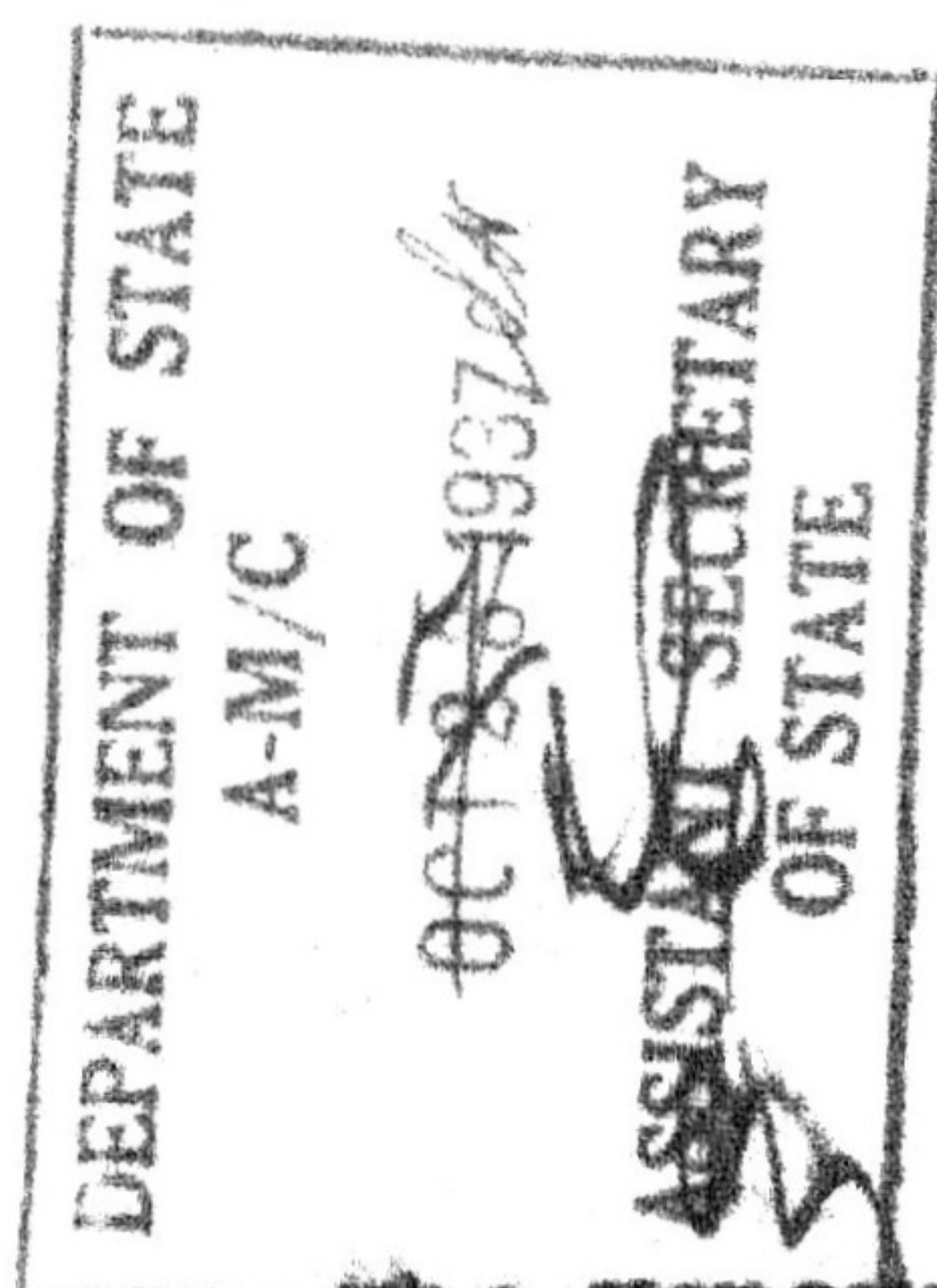
1937 OCT 15 PM 1 47

Subject: Current Events for the fortnight
August 29 to September 11, 1937.

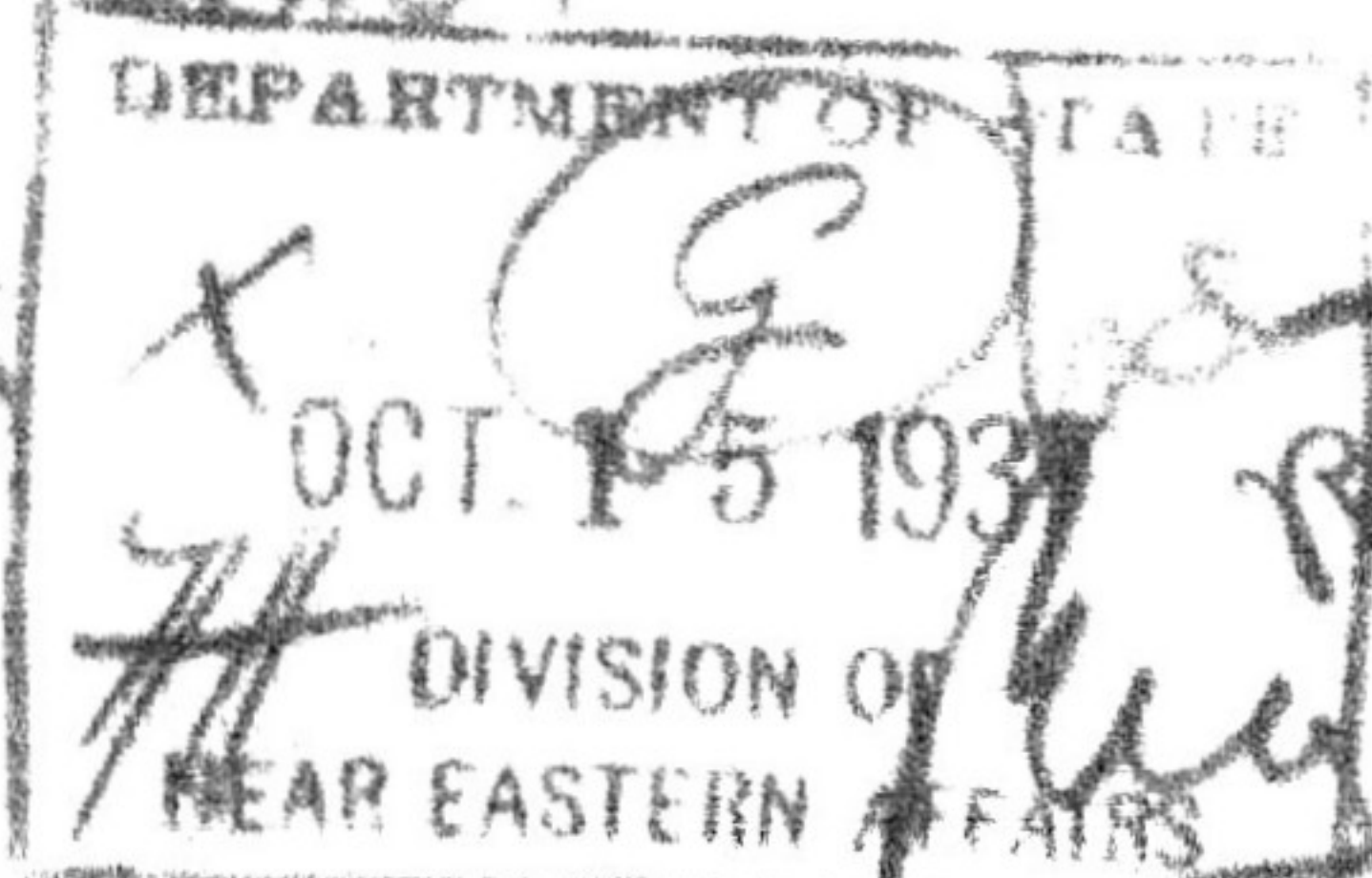
DIVISION OF
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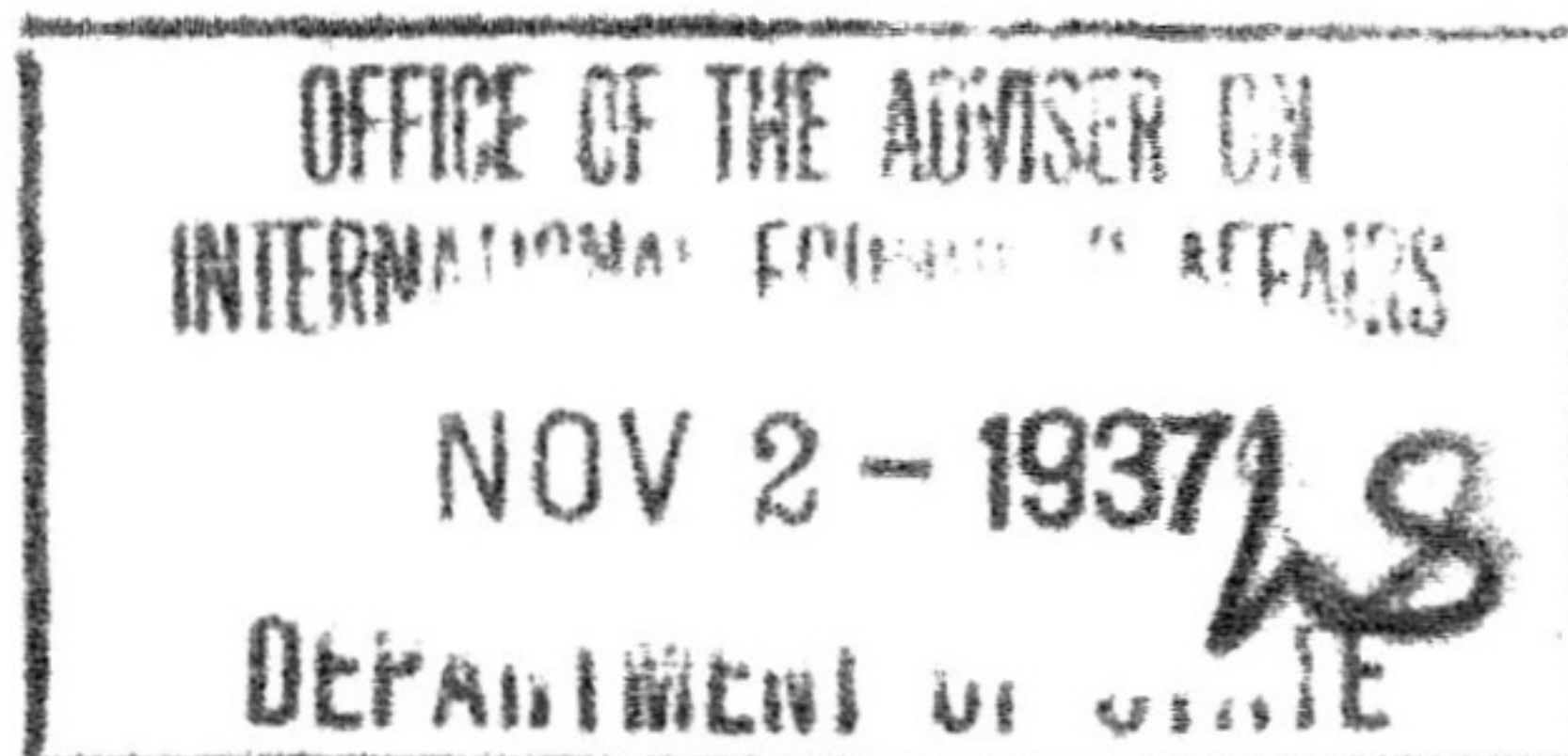


OCT 29 1937



The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.



Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith summaries or copies of certain news items appearing in the local press during the fortnight August 29 to September 11, 1937, which may be of minor interest to the Department. Brief comment has been made when considered appropriate.

Respectfully yours,

Enclosure;
Current Events

File No. 891
JCS/jgb.

Copies to: American Embassy, London
American Legation, Tehran
American Consulate General, Beirut
American Consulate General, Jerusalem

Joseph C. Satterthwaite
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

8903.00 GENERAL CONDITIONS/110

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Enclosure to Despatch No. 871 -
Diplomatic, of September 16, 1937,
from American Legation, Baghdad,
Iraq.

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I
POLITICAL SECTION

1. GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD SOON

It is anticipated that the Government will endeavour to carry out the general election in Iraq as soon as possible, so that the new Majlis will be able to meet in ordinary session at the beginning of November. The new treaties and agreements which have been concluded between Iraq and neighbouring States will then be submitted to Parliament for ratification.

--The Iraq Times, September 2, 1937.

COMMENT: The Ministry of the Interior has issued orders to municipal authorities throughout Iraq to bring their registration lists up to date.

2. NEW GOVERNMENT HONORS FORMER PREMIER

According to the Syrian newspapers, the Iraqi Consul-General in Beyrout, Sayid Talib Mushtaq, during a recent visit to Damascus laid a wreath on the grave of Sayid Yasin al-Hashimi, Prime Minister of Iraq a year ago. This is the first tribute paid to him by an official representative of the Iraq Government.

--The Iraq Times, September 7, 1937.

3. PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES ARMY OFFICERS

His Excellency the Prime Minister, Sayid Jamil al-Midfai, who also holds the portfolio of Defence, was the guest of honour at a dinner party given by the officers of the Army Headquarters at Baghdad West. The Officer Commanding delivered a short speech in which he expressed the loyalty of the army to the throne and their readiness to give their lives for their country and the national ideals. The Prime Minister, replying, said that it afforded him

much

much pleasure to be among so many old friends, with whom he had spent many years in the army and in the trenches. He concluded by calling for three cheers for his Majesty the King and the Iraq Army.

--The Iraq Times, September 8, 1937.

COMMENT: The Officer Commanding is of course General Amin al-Umari, recently transferred from Mosul to command the First Division. It will be recalled that his action in severing relations with Baghdad following the assassination of General Bekir Sidqi forced the resignation of the Sulaiman Cabinet.

4. FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF KING GHAZI'S ACCESSION TO THE THRONE

About five hundred guests, including members of the Cabinet and prominent people representing all walks of life in Baghdad, attended the tea-party which was given in the gardens of the Amanah Hall last evening in honour of the anniversary of King Ghazi's accession to the throne. At 7 p.m. the guests at the Amanah gardens, in common with thousands of people in all parts of the country, heard H. M. King Ghazi broadcasting a short address to the nation, talking from his private broadcasting station at Qasr al-Zihour. He said that he was glad to have the opportunity for the first time to talk directly to his people on the occasion of the anniversary of his accession. He expressed his feelings of joy and happiness at the loyalty which had ever been shown by the people of Iraq. He would never forget the self-restraint shown by his noble nation during the many difficult crises through which the country had passed. His Majesty went on to say that his happiness was redoubled by the public's co-operation with the new national Cabinet,

which

which had his own and the nation's confidence. It was through such co-operation between the Government and the people that Iraq had happily been able to surmount difficulties in the past. "I repeat," said King Ghazi, "my promise to the nation that I shall always be the guardian of its safety and tranquillity, and shall always do my utmost to ensure its happiness and the attainment of its ideals. I conclude with greetings to my noble people, with my sincere wishes for their future happiness."

--The Iraq Times, September 9, 1937.

COMMENT: The city was gaily decorated with flags and patriotic electrical displays. As is customary the King announced the award of various decorations and promotions to army officers. A Royal Decree^{is} issued reducing all prison sentences slightly. The Diplomatic Corps signed the book at the Royal Palace in the morning and attended the Acting Mayor's reception in the afternoon. King Ghazi made no public appearance.

5. DECREE TO PROHIBIT MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA

We publish on our Arabic page to-day a decree for the prevention of malicious propaganda, which was issued by the Government this morning. The decree is intended to assist in preserving peace and order and to prevent harmful agitation. When it is proved that any Iraqi carries out malicious propaganda which is harmful to the country, either through the press or by holding meetings with intent to arouse dissatisfaction against the State or to cause strife between different sections of the people, the Council of Ministers may decide that the person concerned must reside in a specified district for a period not exceeding three years, during which he would be under police supervision.

--The Iraq Times, September 9, 1937.

6. Appointment

6. APPOINTMENT OF RASHID AL-KHOJA AS
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE KING

A Royal Iradah was issued yesterday appointing Sayid Rashid al-Khoja to the post of Rais of the Royal Diwan and Private Secretary to his Majesty. Sayid Rashid, who was born in Baghdad in 1884, was educated at the Military and Staff Colleges in Istanbul, and fought with the Turkish forces throughout the Great War. He returned to Iraq in 1920 and since then has held many senior administrative posts. He has been Minister of Defence three times, President of the Chamber of Deputies twice, Amin al-Asimah, Mutasarrif of Baghdad and Mosul Liwas, and Deputy for Baghdad.

-- The Iraq Times, September 10, 1937.

II
INTERNATIONAL SECTION

7. WILL IRAQ TAKE CHARGE OF KOWEIT CUSTOMS?

According to news received from Koweit, the Iraq Government has discussed the question of smuggling along the Iraq border with its Amir in order to take effective measures to put an end to it. The government has proposed an agreement between the two countries whereby the Iraqi government undertakes to take control of customs and public instruction in that Amirate. Two schools would be established and would be supported financially by Iraq and also other similar assistance would be given.

--Al-Istiklal, August 29, 1937.

8. LOCAL PRESS COMMENT ON SECRETARY HULL'S STATEMENT
OF JULY 16

According to a statement issued in London, the Iraqi

government

Office of Education
Tariff

government has informed Washington that it has "firm hope of safeguarding peace in Western Asia and also contributing to world peace generally."

--The Iraq Times, August 30, 1937.

COMMENT: This and similar references in the Arab press constitute the only comment that has been observed in the local press concerning Iraq's reply to the Secretary's statement of July 16. It will be recalled that the official reply was obtained just before the downfall of the cabinet.

9. FRONTIER DISPUTE BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN

RAH

It will be recalled that the Iraq Government about two years ago submitted the frontier dispute between Iraq and Iran to the League of Nations for consideration. In view of the fact that the dispute has now been settled between the two governments, the Iraqi Permanent Representative at Geneva has been instructed to withdraw the complaint from the League of Nations.

--The Iraq Times, September 1, 1937.

10. VISIT OF AFGHAN CHIEF OF STAFF

The Afghan Chief of Staff, accompanied by a party of Afghan officers, arrived in Baghdad by train yesterday morning on their way home from the Turkish manoeuvres in Thrace. They were the guests of the Foreign Ministry at a dinner party at the Amanah Hall last night. They will leave for Teheran early to-morrow morning.

RAH

M.I.D.

--The Iraq Times, September 3, 1937.

11. JAMIL AL-MIDFAI'S VIEWS ON THE ARAB CONFEDERATION.

Asked his opinion concerning the Arab confederation and the means of attaining it, Jamil al-Midfai, Iraq's

Premier,

Premier, said:

The Arab confederation is the aim of every loyal Arab. It would be lifeless without this. Its realization depends upon the universal feeling of all Arab leaders in the various states for its need, and they should work to unify education, form armies, and abolish customs barriers and passports. They should consistently hold conferences for the promotion of understanding between the Arab states in order to learn the essential measures for overcoming the difficulties which might obstruct their way in this regard. This is my brief opinion on this subject.

--Al-Istiklal, September 6, 1937.

12. Transfer of French Minister to Siam

We understand that Mons. Paul Lepissier, the French Minister in Baghdad, has been appointed Minister to the Court of Siam. Mons. and Mme. Lepissier have made many friends in all social circles in Baghdad, and they will be greatly missed. At present Mons. Lepissier is on leave in the Lebanon. He is returning to Baghdad on September 18th or 20th.

Eu
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--The Iraq Times, September 10, 1937.

COMMENT: While not yet announced officially, the foregoing is correct.

13. ARRIVAL OF SAUDI ARABIAN OFFICIALS

a. Shaikh Hafidh Wahba, Saudi-Arabian Minister in London, arrived in Baghdad yesterday on his return journey to England from Arabia, where he had conferences with H. M. King Abdul Aziz. Shaikh Hafidh is accompanied by Shaikh Yusuf al-Yassin, private secretary to H. M. King Abdul Aziz. It is understood that Shaikh Hafidh will leave by air for

London

London to-morrow, while Shaikh Yusuf will spend a few days in Baghdad.

--The Iraq Times, September 10, 1937.

b. Shaikh Yusuf al-Yassin, Private Secretary to H. M. King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud, will leave Baghdad for Syria this evening after spending a few days in Baghdad. During his stay he had meetings with members of the Cabinet on matters affecting the interests of the two countries. The discussions will be resumed on Shaikh Yusuf's return from Syria.

--The Iraq Times, September 13, 1937.

COMMENT: These officials have apparently arrived from Riyadh, where an important conference was recently called by King Ibn Saud.

14. EGYPT TO BUILD LEGATION IN BAGHDAD

We understand that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has decided to build a Legation in Baghdad, for which a sum of I.D.6,000 has been provided. The Egyptian Government has approached the Iraq Government for the grant of a suitable site. The matter is now under consideration by the authorities and the Egyptian request is expected to be granted in the near future.

--The Iraq Times, September 11, 1937.

COMMENT: Sites are to be furnished by each Government on a basis of reciprocity.

III ECONOMIC SECTION

15. THE NEW COTTON CROP

According to present estimate the size of the new cotton crop is expected to be 25,000 bales.

--Al-Istiklal, August 30, 1937.

16. Petroleum

*Commerce
Agriculture*

16. PETROLEUM IN THE EUPHRATES

Having discovered that oil exists in the Basrah district, geologists are now directing their attention to the Euphrates where, according to a statement made by a certain Dr. Nicholas, oil exists also.

--Al-Istiklal, August 29, 1937.

COMMENT: Al-Bilad of September 6 also reported the discovery of traces of oil in the Central Euphrates District.

Commercial
Bu. of Mines

17. RUBBER TO BE GROWN IN IRAQ

We understand that correspondence is being exchanged between certain manufacturers in America and local companies in Iraq concerning the growing of rubber in southern Iraq.

--Al-Istiklal, September 2, 1937.

Commerce
Agriculture

18. BARTER WITH GERMANY IN DATES

A proposition has been received by the Date Board of Basrah from Gerhard Jeschen in Berlin for the purchase of Hallawee dates for 5,000 marks provided that in return goods to the value of 4,100 marks must be purchased from Germany, which is in accordance with the exchange regulations effective in Germany.

--Az-Zaman, September 1, 1937.

Eu
Commerce

19. IRON NEAR BASRAH

As a result of reports emanating from technical sources concerning the presence of iron ore south-west of Basrah, a Japanese merchant has declared that Japan is interested in extending its commercial relations with Iraq and the rest of the Arab States and that after the presence of iron has been ascertained in Iraq the Japanese government will bring the matter to the attention of its large companies to co-operate in exploiting the iron on a reciprocal basis.

--Al-Ahram ul-Arabi, September 5, 1937.

FE
Commerce
Bu. of Mines

comment:

COMMENT: The foregoing was apparently released by the Department of Industrial Research.

20. TELEPHONE SERVICE WITH GREAT BRITAIN

a. A telephone service is being opened to-day between Iraq and "any place in Great Britain and Northern Ireland." The ordinary charge for a call will be £1-9s. a minute, and as the minimum call will be three minutes the minimum charge will be £4-7s. At the outset the service in Iraq is restricted to Baghdad.

--The Iraq Times, September 1, 1937.

b. The formal inauguration of the Baghdad-London telephone service yesterday was a notable event, of particular interest to the big commercial firms. The speaker's voice in Baghdad is carried by land line through Amman and Palestine to Egypt, whence it is transmitted by direct wireless to London. The land line between Baghdad and Cairo may be expected to work perfectly on nearly all occasions; the efficiency of the wireless section between Cairo and London may be somewhat variable, as it is governed by atmospheric conditions. Yesterday's reception in both Baghdad and London was on the whole satisfactory.

--The Iraq Times, September 2, 1937.

21. FRENCH STEAMSHIP COMPANY TO OPERATE IN THE PERSIAN GULF

In spite of the commercial connections of France and its colonies with Iraq, French steamship companies do not operate in this part of the world. We are now informed that a French company will soon extend its activities to the Persian Gulf and that regular sailings will be made by French boats between France and its colonies and Iraq.

--Al-Bilad, September 2, 1937.

22. Bank

E
Federal Communications Commission

RAH
Maritime Commerce

22. BANK OF ROME MAY OPERATE IN BAGHDAD

We understand that the Banco di Roma may open a branch in Baghdad in the near future, if the necessary permit is obtained from the government. Two officials of the bank recently arrived in Baghdad, from Jerusalem and Aleppo respectively, and they are now negotiating for a five years' lease of bank premises at the corner of Al Rashid Street and Samawal (Bank) Street. The capital of the Banco di Roma is 200 million lire while the reserve is 41,280,840 lire. At the present rate of exchange - approximately 95 lire to the dinar or pound sterling - the capital and reserve are equivalent to two and a half million sterling. The Banco di Roma paid no dividend for the years 1934 and 1935.

--The Iraq Times, September 11, 1937.

COMMENT: An official of the Foreign Office in commenting on this article, expressed his great amusement at the final sentence added by the British editor of the Iraq Times.

*Reading
Comment*

Central File: Decimal File 890G.00, Internal Affairs Of States, Iraq, Political Affairs., Mar. 2, 1933 - September 16, 1937. March 2, 1933 - September 16, 1937. MS Iraq: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1888-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Internal Affairs of Iraq, 1930-1944. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com/apps/doc/SC5111791874/GDSC?u=cale23906&sid=GDSC&xid=a4ab432e&pg=892. Accessed 28 Apr. 2021.